

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Emergency Department and Inpatient ophthalmology consults.	NO. 20.6
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Original Date of Issue: 12/08

<b>Reviewed:</b>							
<b>Revised:</b>							

**Patient Population**

Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

**Purpose:** To establish guidelines for patients requiring ophthalmology services during their emergency department or inpatient visit.

**Policy:** It is the policy of Mount Sinai ambulatory care services that all patients requiring ophthalmology care and treatment receive such services in a timely manner. The ophthalmology resident will be assigned the responsibility of providing these services on an as needed basis.

**Procedure- Emergency Department (ED).**

- I. For the ED patient that is stable and presents with a chief complaint of an eye problem and will also be discharged. The following referral process must be followed:
  - i. The emergency department will contact the ophthalmology clinic on 8east of the Center for Advanced Medicine (CAM) at 212-824-7653 or 7655.
  - ii. The ED will provide the clinic physician with pertinent information related to (1) chief complaint and (2) any actions and/or interventions undertaken in the ED.
  - iii. The patient will be discharged from the ED and directed to the CAM building with a consult form.
  
- I. For the ED patient that requires an ophthalmology evaluation in the ED (i.e. trauma or eye injury) or is unable to ambulate to CAM. The following process will be followed:
  - i. The ED will contact the ophthalmology resident via beeper # 917-641-1556 during the hours of 8:30-5p Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 12:30p-5p Wednesday.
  - ii. After hours, weekends and holidays, the ED will contact the page operator for the on-call ophthalmology resident.
  - iii. The resident will come to the ED and provide the necessary ophthalmology evaluation and treatment.
  - iv. The ophthalmology resident will transport the patient to Annenberg 2 if needed and return the patient back to the ED.
  
- I. For the patient that presents to the ED and is admitted for a diagnosis unrelated to ophthalmology but has an eye condition that requires an eye consult (i.e. CVA). The following procedure is followed:
  - i. The admitting physician will order an ophthalmology consult during the admission process.
  - ii. The referral will follow the inpatient ophthalmology referral /consult process outlined below.

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**Procedure – Inpatient:**

When an inpatient requires an ophthalmology referral/ consult, the following process must be followed:

- I. During the hours of 9a-5p, the inpatient unit will contact the ophthalmology resident via beeper # 917-641-1556. Also, the attending physician can conduct a direct 1:1 referral with the ophthalmologist of their choice
- II. After hours, weekends and holidays, the inpatient unit will contact the page operator for the on-call ophthalmology resident.
- III. In either case, the on-call ophthalmology resident will report to the respective inpatient unit and transport the patient to Annenberg 2 if needed and return the patient back to the unit.

**Under no circumstance should an inpatient or non-ambulatory patient be escorted to the ophthalmology clinic at 8E of the CAM building.**